

REMARKS

Applicants have received the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed April 30, 2012. The above amendment cancels rejected claims 18-23, 25, 26, and 46, leaving only the allowed claims pending. Entry and consideration of the amendment are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 27, 30-36, 38-41, 47, and 48 are allowed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 18-23, 25, 26, and 46 are rejected as being unpatentable over Foley (US 5,792,044) in view of Ash (WO 83/03189) and Zdeblick (US 6,206,922). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection, however in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 18-23, 25, 26, and 46 have been canceled without prejudice.

Conclusion

It is submitted that, in light of the above amendment, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
THOMAS W. DAVISON

By his Attorney,

Date: 5/21/12


Nancy J. Parsons, Reg. No. 40,364
SEAGER, TUFTE, & WICKHEM, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349